

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

LARSEN, Rick (Democrat)
Representative, 2nd District, Washington
Elected 2000 to the 107th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Arlington, Washington - 15 June 1965

Home: Lake Stevens, Washington

Marital status: Married (Tiia Karlen) - 2 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Pacific Lutheran Univ., B.A., 1987; Univ of Minnesota, M.P.A., 1990

Military: None

Profession: Dental association lobbyist; port economic development official

Political: Snohomish County Council, 1998-2000 (Chmn, 1999). Defeated John Koster (R) to succeed Rep Jack Metcalf (R), who retired. Reelected in 2002 with 50.6% in a 4-way race.

Rep Larsen is a liberal-to-moderate Democrat who represents a swing-district. Member of the moderate New Democrat Coalition. High-tech industries such as Boeing and B.F. Goodrich Aerospace are major employers and the district includes substantial dairy and timber industries. Supports legislation to protect individual's medical and financial records. Also interested in ensuring oil pipeline safety, and Social Security and Medicare issues. Supports expanded international trade. Received campaign support from organized labor, as well as traditional Democratic backers, such as abortion rights advocates and environmental groups.

In the 107th Congress, was appointed to the Armed Services Cmte on July 25, 2001. Acknowledged crew members of the EP-3 from Whidbey Island NAS who were held by the Chinese. Called for their immediate release and honored the families of the crew. Helped achieve FY02 DoD supplemental approps funding for replacing Prowler EA-6B wing center sections, noting that the aircraft were the only airborne radar jamming systems available to the US. Objected to the inclusion of language in the FY03 DoD auth that he said would jeopardize wilderness study areas beneath the air space of the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR). Opposes the development and deployment of nuclear-tipped ballistic missile interceptors; supports maintaining flexibility to reduce operationally deployed nuclear weapons below 1700; supports stronger notification requirements prior to resumption of underground nuclear testing. Opposed granting President Bush authority to use US military forces against Iraq. Supported increased defense spending, tighter border and port security, and increased funding for training local emergency response personnel to deal with terrorism. Pledged to support pay raises, reduced housing expenses, and increased funding for quality-of-life improvements for military personnel.

Additional: Military installations include Whidbey Island Naval Air Station and Naval Station Everett.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES - Subcs on: Terrorism, Unconventional Threats & Capabilities; Readiness

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Subcs on: Aviation; Highways, Transit & Pipelines

AGRICULTURE

